

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/511,084

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Drawing sheet number 3 containing Figure 3B has been amended. Specifically, numeral 54 , designating a speckle reduction module, has been changed to “54”.

Attachment: One (1) Replacement Sheet for Figure 3B and one (1) Annotated sheet.



Attorney Docket No. Q83512
PATENT APPLICATION

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/511,084

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are all the claims pending in the application, claim 1 is being amended. No new matter has been introduced.

Informal Matters

PRIORITY

The Examiner has objected to Applicants' claim of priority because of an informality. In response, Applicants amended paragraph [0001] of the specification. The Amendment is believed to be fully responsive to the Examiner's objection.

OATH/DECLARATION

The Examiner has objected to the oath/declaration because of an informality. In response, Applicants submit herewith a newly executed oath/declaration. The attached oath/declaration is believed to overcome the Examiner's rejection.

DRAWINGS

The Examiner has objected to Figures 2, 4, 3A, 3B, 9 and 11 of the drawings because of certain informalities. In response, Applicants make the appropriate corrections, which are believed to be fully responsive to Examiner's objections with respect to Figures 3A and 3B. Specifically, Applicants submit the amended Figure 3B. With respect to the Examiner's objections to Figures 2, 4, 9 and 11, Applicants respectfully traverse them.

Specifically, objection to Figures 3A and 3B is made for allegedly failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.8(p)(5) because reference character "54" has been used to designate both the optical

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/511,084

system in Figure 3A and the optical system in Figure 3B. Applicants respectfully submit that this objection is fully overcome by the present amendment of Figure 3B.

With respect to Figure 2, the Examiner asserts that Figure 2 lacks an identification of a wafer 22, cameras 30 and image processor 34. In response, it is respectfully noted that the output optics 72, 74 shown in Figure 2 constitute the beams to be directed at a wafer 22 and that all detail shown in Figure 2 present the schematic view of an apparatus for preparing the laser beams 72, 74 without illustrating the wafer 22 or the downstream processing items, which include the cameras 30 and the image processor 34. The optics 72, 74, as shown, are directed at the wafer 22, which is not shown. Therefore, the wafer 22, cameras 30 and image processor 34 are properly not shown in Figure 2. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that this objection with regard to Figure 2 be withdrawn.

With respect to Figure 4, the Examiner asserts that Figure 4 lacks an identification of the controller 32. It is respectfully noted that the entire drawing Figure 4 is of a schematic side view of only the illumination module 24 which includes a telescope assembly 120. Thus, the controller 32 is properly not presented in Figure 4. The Examiner further states with respect to Figure 4 that this figure lacks an identification of the turning mirror 136. In response, it is respectfully noted that two possible positions of the turning mirror 136a and 136b are presented in Figure 4 and that these two alternate settings constitute a proper and clear presentation of the turning mirror 136. A yet further objection to Figure 4 is based on the Examiner's assertion that this figure lacks an identification of the cameras 30. In response, it is respectfully noted that the

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/511,084

entire drawing Figure 4 is of a schematic side view of only the illumination module 24 which includes a telescope assembly 120. Thus, the cameras 30 are properly not presented in Figure 4. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the objection with regard to Figure 4 should be withdrawn.

With respect to Figure 11, the Examiner asserts that Figure 11 lacks an identification of the sensors 166. In response, it is noted that Figure 9 shows that the sensors 166 are included as a part of the cameras 30. The cameras 30 as shown in Figure 11 include the sensors 166, which are not shown separately. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that this objection with regard to Figure 11 should be withdrawn.

Elements “68” and “70” are shown in Figure 4 but are not in the description for Figure 4. The Amendment now refers to elements “68” and “70” as being shown in Figure 4 from the description of Figure 1 page 14 [0049, Line 5].

Elements “164”, “166” and “194” are shown in Figure 9 but are not in the description for Figure 9. The Amendment now refers to elements “164” and “166” as being shown in Figure 9 from the description of Figure 5 page 26 [0073, Line 2]. The Amendment now refers to element “194” as being shown in Figure 9 from the description of Figure 7 page 29 [0078, Line 10].

5c. Elements “66” is shown in Figure 11 but are not in the description for Figure 11.

The Amendment now refers to element “66” as being shown in Figure 11 from the description of Figure 1 page 26 [0048, Line 11].

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/511,084

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the objections with regard to the absence of descriptions of reference character(s) for Figures 4, 9 and 11 be withdrawn and these figures, with the exception of Figure 3B, be allowed as presented.

SPECIFICATION

The Examiner has objected to the disclosure because of certain informalities. In response, Applicants make appropriate amendments, which are believed to be fully responsive to Examiner's objection.

Claim Objections

Claim 1 is objected to because of certain informality. Claims 2-7 are objected to for being dependent on the objected base claim. This objection is respectfully traversed in view of the subject Amendment and the following arguments.

Specifically, claim 1 has been amended at lines 8 and 11 to recite the term "*optically coupled*." This amendment is believed to overcome the Examiner's objection to claims 1-7. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-7 are allowable as amended.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC 102(b)

Claims 1-4 and 8-11 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Drake (US Patent Number 6,778,267 B2). This rejection is respectfully traversed in view of the following comments.

Applicants respectfully submit that Drake does not teach or suggest a tilt correction unit. Moreover, Drake does not teach or suggest a correcting the image received from the wafer. In

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/511,084

fact, Drake teaches away from the claimed invention in that it provides that blurring of the image is beneficial. More specifically, Drake (column 5, lines 5-8) states:

“Alternatively, relay lens 12 may be substantially non-telecentric to increase keystone distortion of the image of the specimen. In this manner, a controlled amount of blur may be produced at the area detector.”

The method disclosed by Drake (column 5, lines 15-19) involves downstream processing which accommodates the distortion so as to reduce aliasing:

“A controlled amount of blur may increase a lateral dimension ... thereby reducing aliasing.”

Thus it is respectfully submitted by the Applicants that the functions disclosed in modifying the image by Drake do not correct the image but deliberately introduce a distortion for other purpose. Thus the language claim 1 properly describes an apparatus 74 which corrects the image when the image is reflected from the wafer. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over Drake.

With respect to claims 2-4 and 8-11, these claims are allowable at least due to their dependence from allowable claim 1. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-4, 8-11 are not anticipated by Drake.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC 102(f)

Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 USC 102(f). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection in view of the following arguments. Specifically, in rejecting the above claims the Examiner states that drawings of the instant application are similar to the drawings of co-pending

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/511,084

application 10/511,092, naming two of the inventors of the present patent application. However, the two applications claim different subject matter. Since inventorship is determined according to the claims, not the drawings, the inventorship is proper and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC 103(a)

Claims 7 and 14 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Drake (U.S. Patent Number 6,778,267 B2) in view of Satou (U.S. Patent Number 6,594,076). This rejection is respectfully traversed in view of the following arguments.

Specifically, with respect to claim 7, Applicants respectfully submit that this claim is allowable at least due to its dependence from allowable claim 1. With respect to claim 14, Applicants respectfully submit that this claim is allowable at least due to its dependence from allowable claim 8. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 7 and 14 are allowable.

Claim Rejections – Double Patenting

Claims 1-2 and 8-9 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 and 4-8 of copending application 10/511,092. In response, Applicants submit a terminal disclaimer with respect to copending application 10/511,092.

Conclusion

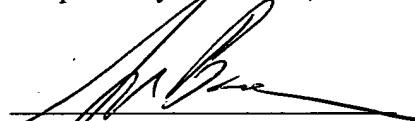
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/511,084

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph Bach
Registration No. 37771

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (650) 625-8100
Facsimile: (650) 625-8110

MOUNTAIN VIEW OFFICE

23493

CUSTOMER NUMBER

FIG. 3A

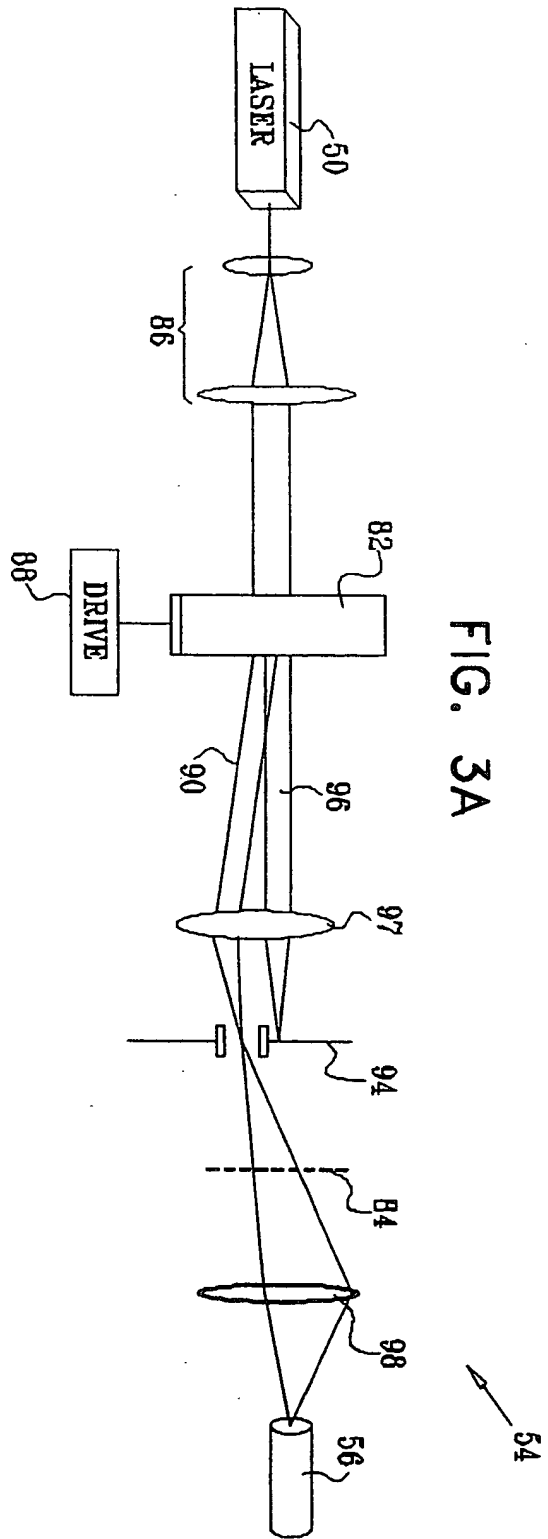


FIG. 3B

